

RESCISSIONS VETO IRONIC

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, how ironic.

What did a President who campaigned on reducing Government spending choose as his first veto? He chose to veto a bill that reduces Government spending. It's no wonder that people in America are confused about where the administration wants to take this country.

This bill provides \$9 billion in real deficit reduction. It takes a first step to balancing the budget—which will lower interest rates, stimulate job growth and provide a sound future for our children.

But the President would rather play politics.

Contrary to what the Democrats are claiming, this bill does not hurt education. Programs such as Head Start, Education for the Disadvantaged and Student Financial Assistance aren't even touched. Even where spending is slightly reduced, programs are still being funded at higher levels than last year.

When are the Democrats and the President going to stop playing politics and come to the table with real alternatives?

If they don't want to be part of the solution, then let them stop being part of the problem.

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DO WE CHOOSE PORK OR PEOPLE?

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Clinton vetoed a bad bill proposed by the Republican leadership that would have cut crucial education and job training programs for our young people, in order to fund wasteful pork projects. As that legislation comes back to Congress, it is time to reassess our priorities. Do we choose pork or people?

Democratic priorities are clear. We want to work to make a better future for America's working families. Education and job training help to give our young people the tools they need to succeed in life. They should not be sacrificed for another multimillion-dollar courthouse or another needless tax giveaway to the wealthy.

I believe that Democrats and Republicans can work together to fashion a package of cuts that will preserve crucial education and job training programs and achieve deficit reduction. The bill that the President vetoed yesterday failed on both counts, and, therefore, failed America's working families. The President was right to veto it.

SUPPORT URGED FOR PASSAGE OF THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will complete debate and vote on one of the most important bills affecting the operations of our foreign affairs agencies and programs since the cold war.

H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act eliminates three Federal agencies—cuts spending by \$3 billion over 2 years—and by a total of \$21 billion over the 7-year glide path to a balanced budget.

It is a major step in the direction of downsizing and streamlining the Federal Government, as well as reducing the deficit.

H.R. 1561 also is about ensuring that our Nation continues as a world leader by targeting scarce resources toward priorities that serve American interests. H.R. 1561 is about supporting peace and stability in the Middle East and getting nuclear weapons out of Russia and the other former Soviet states.

H.R. 1561 has been endorsed by former Secretaries of State Jim Baker, Alexander Haig, Henry Kissinger, and Larry Eagleburger. Accordingly, on final passage, I urge our colleagues to join in supporting this highly important measure.

A GOOD NEWS MORNING

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, today, for the first time in a long time, Americans woke up to a good news morning. First, Mickey Mantle, my childhood hero and that of many of my generation, is now on the road to recovery.

Second, Capt. Scott O'Grady, a young man who could become a hero to a new generation of Americans, was rescued from Bosnia by a stalwart group of Americans. Captain O'Grady braved 5 days in hostile territory and waited for just the right moment to send his radio signal. A team of 40 aircraft kept the Serbs at bay while, in a spectacular rescue, helicopter gunships rescued Captain O'Grady.

Today, Mr. Speaker, all Americans, from the President down to the average person on the street, can take justifiable pride in the bravery of Captain O'Grady and his Marine rescuers.

To Captain O'Grady and to Mickey Mantle, good luck and Godspeed.

CELEBRATING THE DAY OF PORTUGAL

(Mr. BLUTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the millions of Portuguese-Americans across our Nation by calling attention to the day of Portugal.

This Saturday the Portuguese-American community will gather to celebrate their heritage and many positive contributions they have made to America.

Throughout the history of the United States, Portuguese-Americans have had a tremendous impact on the success of our country. From John Philip Sousa, who authored "The Stars and Stripes Forever," to Benjamin Cardozo, a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, to Cardinal and Archbishop Medeiros of Boston, and to our own distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. POMBO], the Portuguese-American community have helped to make America the great country that it is.

There are approximately 2 million Americans who are of Portuguese descent. The United States Congress today joins them in celebrating their heritage day of Portugal this weekend.

THE PRESIDENT NEEDS TO SHOW LEADERSHIP

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, like another Member who came up earlier today, I want to talk about the President's veto of the rescissions bill.

The President, of course, does not think it is a good bill. I think the bill has problems, too, but obviously not for the same reasons that the President thinks. I do not think it goes far enough. I do not think it shows enough courage.

If you want to talk about saving education programs and saving education, you need to do it back in the States. We left some money in for Goals 2000. I think Goals 2000 needs to be zeroed out. We need to get to a point in this Congress where we believe that our parents and our teachers and our communities are not so stupid that they do not know how to educate their own children.

Let us educate children at home and let Washington bureaucrats worry about what Washington bureaucrats worry about.

The President needs to come forward with some real spending cuts and show some leadership, for a change. That is something he has not done in these first 5 months of Congress, and it is something that he needs to do or else we are not going to be able to balance our budget.

THANKING THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the rescission bill was bad policy. It cuts education programs for children. The rescission bill cuts safe and drug-free schools, drastically reducing the funding to a little less than \$10 million.

Yesterday I was honored to be at the White House when the President honored 98 schools who received safe and drug-free school funds for their commitment to education in fighting crime and drugs.

One of those schools recognized was Crespo Elementary, in Houston independent school district, an inner-city school district located in the 29th Congressional District.

When the doors of Crespo Elementary opened in 1992, it was an inner-city school. Everyone expected it to be low performing. In 2 years that school has been recognized as a school by the Texas Education Agency for its academic performance and its positive drug-free environment.

I applaud Crespo's teachers and parents and administrators and students for their active programs. That is what works in this country.

I stand by President Clinton's veto of the rescissions bill on behalf of the 20 million schoolchildren in Texas and the hundreds at Crespo elementary who benefit from the antiviolence and drug funding.

RUSSIAN MISSILE TECHNOLOGY SOLD TO BRAZIL

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, they say that actions speak louder than words. In the case of the Clinton administration, that appears to be true.

We have heard from the Clinton administration they are concerned about arms proliferation; specifically, missile technology being sold around the world.

But what are their actions? Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post headline screams out the record of the Clinton administration. "U.S. Waives Objections to Russian Missile Technology Sale to Brazil." We now learn the Clinton administration secretly has given the go-ahead to allow the Russians to begin to export their technology, while next week on the House floor, on the defense bill, we will hear all of these arguments about adhering to the ABM Treaty.

This is the second case where the Clinton administration has waived efforts to stop proliferation of missile technology. Earlier this year they failed to stop the sale of rocket motors to China, which will be used to enhance their cruise missiles.

This is outrageous. Last evening I wrote to the President a two-page letter asking for a full public discussion and disclosure, with the Congress,

about the waiver of the sanctions against Russia and Brazil.

GIVING THANKS FOR THE RESCUE OF CAPT. SCOTT O'GRADY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to give thanks for the safe rescue of Capt. Scott O'Grady, the F-16 pilot shot down over Bosnia while flying a NATO support mission.

Captain O'Grady's training was the very best in the world, and it kept him alive for 6 days as he managed to elude hostile Bosnian Serb troops and communicate by radio with the Marine Corp rescue unit that would ultimately bring him to safety.

Though he had suffered some burns to his neck as he ejected from his crippled aircraft, Captain O'Grady never panicked.

He endured hunger and hypothermia while judiciously using his battery-powered rescue radio to call for help.

Both Captain O'Grady and his Marine Corps rescuers from Camp Lejeune performed by the book. They did precisely what their military training had instructed them to do, and thus the prayers of all America have been answered.

Mr. Speaker, it has become fashionable lately for many of my congressional colleagues to criticize our military's readiness, to allege that training has suffered as a result of more streamlined Pentagon spending.

Well, Mr. Speaker, for those who want to justify a return to the days of monstrous defense budgets in the face of deficits and mounting domestic problems, I would like to point to the textbook competence and excellence displayed by American fighting forces in this dramatic episode.

To Captain O'Grady's family, I extend America's warmest wishes.

We share your joy in the safe return of your brave loved one.

And we share your pride in knowing that he is a part of the very best trained, the very best equipped, and the readiest fighting force the world has ever known, and supported by this administration and Democrats of Congress believing in a strong, efficient, effective defense.

URGING CONGRESS TO SHOW RESTRAINT

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to urge restraint on the part of the Congress on both sides of the aisle, both Republicans and Democrats, to understand when they begin to dismantle the only health care program for the poor that we have in this country, that they should take some pause before doing that.

I think the American public needs to know not what is going on here in Washington and the bills and the resolutions, but they need to know what is not there.

The Republicans want to cut Medicaid by \$170 billion, and I listened this morning and I heard some greedy Governors, particularly Governors from Republican States, who want to have all the money dumped in one pile so they can use it as they see fit. And I guarantee you it will not all be used for the purposes for which it is intended.

They show little concern about the impact of these proposals on children, the elderly, and the severely disabled. They are concerned about management and about how they can use this money to make their coffers stronger. They like to cut dollars, but they do not like to create alternatives.

I have heard no alternatives to Medicaid since I have been here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge restraint on the part of the Congress to think about the poor and the underserved.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Judiciary; Committee on Resources; Committee on Science; Committee on Small Business; and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, the gentleman is correct. The Democrat minority has been consulted and has no objection to this request.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 67, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET—FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal years 1996, 1997,